

Russian Orthodox death/burial records span two pages as illustrated by the example below. The information on the left-hand side of the page contains standard vital information such as name,

date of death/burial, and age, while the left-hand side of the page includes the cause of the death and the name of the priest who performed the burial and the location of the burial.

МЕТРИЧЕСКОЙ КНИГЕ НА 1907				ГОДА, ЧАСТЬ ТРЕТІА, ѡ ОУМЕРШИХЪ.		
Вѣтъ оумершихъ.		Мѣсяцъ и день		Вѣтъ, имя, отчество и фамилія оумершаго.		Вѣтъ оумершаго.
Мужск.	Женск.	смерти.	погребенія.			
"	26.	Декабрь 12.	14.	Хутораискаго казеннаго крестьянина Григорія Петрова сына Ивана жена Евдокія Осифовна дочь. Свѣцу. Немецъ Немецъ Псаломщикъ Григорій Натановичъ.		60.
"	27.	16.	18.	Хутораискаго казеннаго крестьянина Саварія Даниловича сына Давида дочь Евдокія.		3м.
				Свѣцу. Немецъ Немецъ		

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS9J-W9NZ-6?i=285&cc=3511744>

Left Side Column Heading Translations

1. Entry number		2. Date		3. Name of the deceased	4. Age	
1a. Male	1b. Female	2a. Death	2b. Burial		4a. Male	4b. Female
Мужск.	Женск.	смерти.	погребенія.	Вѣтъ, имя, отчество и фамилія оумершаго.	Мужск.	Женск.
"	26.	Декабрь 12.	14.	Хутораискаго казеннаго крестьянина Григорія Петрова сына Ивана жена Евдокія Осифовна дочь. Свѣцу. Немецъ Немецъ Псаломщикъ Григорій Натановичъ.	"	60.

1. ENTRY NUMBER: The entry number is split into two columns: 1a – male, and 2a – female. The number in this column means that the individual was the xth male or female that died that year.

2. DATE: The date of the death was recorded in column 2a, while the date of burial was recorded in column 2b. In some cases, the month is only written at the top of the page, or even just once at the beginning of the month. You may need to scan the surrounding entries and/or

pages to find the birth or baptism month. The examples below show the months in nominative case, which is most common in these records; however, you may find the months with different grammatical case endings, or even in an abbreviated form.

Month	Handwritten Example (Russian)	Month	Handwritten Example (Russian)
January январь	Январь	July июль	Июль
February февраль	Февраль	August августъ	Августъ
March мартъ	Мартъ	September сентябрь	Сентябрь
April апрель	Апрель	October октябрь	Октябрь
May май	Май	November ноябрь	Ноябрь
June июнь	Июнь	December декабрь	Декабрь

3. NAME OF THE DECEASED: The name of the deceased individual was recorded in this column as well as information about the person's social estate. If the deceased individual was a child, the father's name will often be included in this column, or if the individual was a woman, her husband's name (or her father, if single) will also be included in the column. Genitive case will help you know who is the deceased individual and who is the related individual. Keep in mind that the format of the information in this column may vary, but below are three examples of general representations of a typical column entry for a male, female, and a child.

Deceased Adult Female:

The image shows a handwritten record in Russian. The text is written in three lines. The first line is "Духовенского казенного крестьянина" (Dukhoven'skogo kazennogo krest'yanina). The second line is "Григорія Петрова сына" (Grigoriya Petrova syna). The third line is "Евдокія Осодорова дочь" (Evdokeya Osodorova doch'). There are color-coded annotations: 'a' is above "Духовенского", 'b' is above "крестьянина", 'c' is above "сына", 'd' is above "женд", and 'e' is above "дочь".

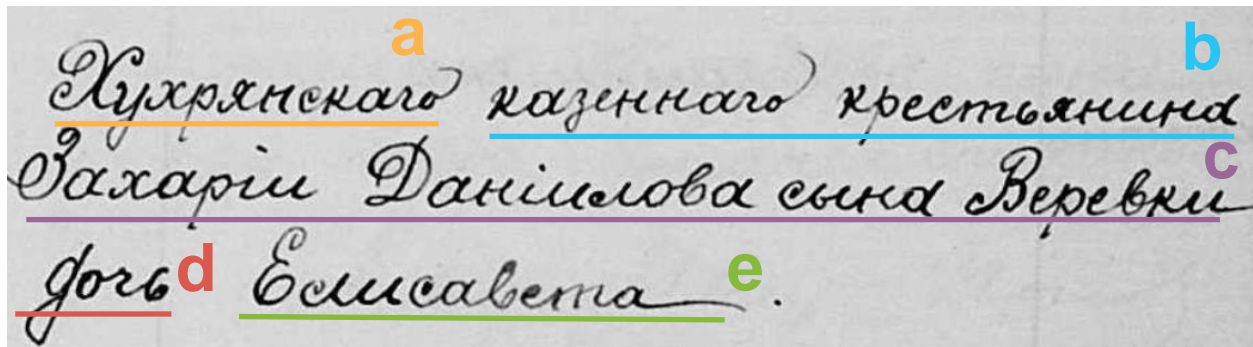
Image from: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS9J-W9NZ-6?i=285&cc=3511744>

Deceased Adult Female Translation and Record Outline:

[Location]^a [Social estate]^b, [spouse's given name, patronymic (may say son, implying the patronymic) and surname]^c [relationship – wife]^d [given name and patronymic of the

deceased] daughter (implying the patronymic).^e

Deceased Child:



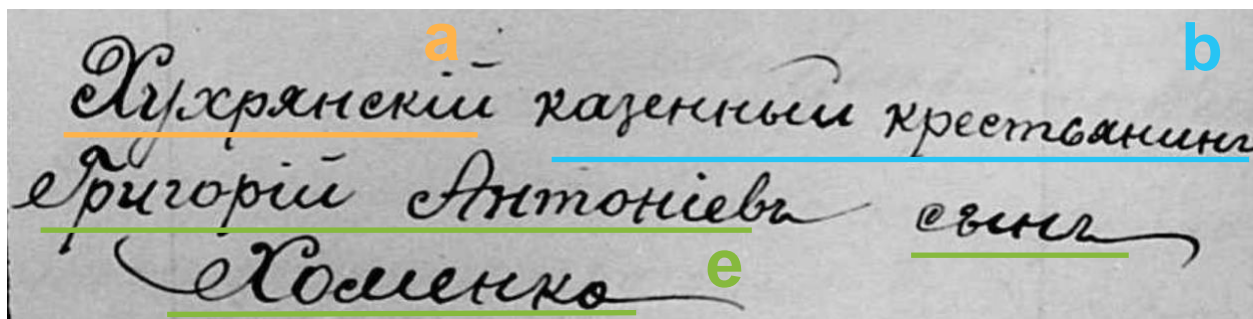
Хухрянскаго казеннаго крестьянина
Захаріи Даниілова сына Веревки
дочь Елисавета.

Image from: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS9J-W9NZ-6?i=285&cc=3511744>

Deceased Child Translation and Record Outline:

[Location]^a [Social estate]^b, [father's given name, patronymic (may say son, implying the patronymic) and surname]^c [relationship – son or daughter]^d [given name and patronymic of the deceased] son or daughter (implying the patronymic).^e

Deceased Adult Male:



Хухрянскій казенный крестьянин
Григорій Антоніевъ сынъ
Хоменко.

Image from: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS9J-W9NZ-6?i=285&cc=3511744>

Adult Male Translation and Record Outline:

[Location]^a [Social estate]^b, [given name and patronymic of the deceased] son (implying the patronymic).^c

Keywords from Translation Record Outlines

a. Location: The paragraph typically begins with the residence (or place of registration) of the family. In some cases, the location may be in adjectival form (with a (ян)ский or (ян)скій ending), as shown in the example below. Remove the adjectival ending and use a good gazetteer to help you determine the correct spelling of the town name.

Хухрянскій → Хухрянскій → Хухра

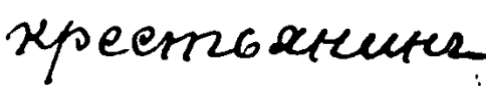
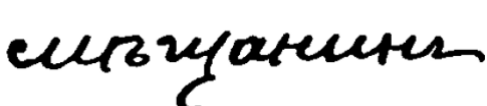
In other cases, the paragraph may begin with the word for town or village followed by the name of the town or village. Common words that mean village are found below. Keep in mind they are often in genitive case.

English	Russian	Handwritten Example
Farm	Хутор <i>Хутора (genitive case)</i>	
Village (with a church)	Село <i>Села (genitive case)</i>	
Village	Деревня <i>Деревни (genitive case)</i>	

OTHER HELPFUL VOCABULARY WORDS

English	Russian
village with a church	село
city	город
settlement	посадъ


b. Social Estate: In the Russian Empire, each person had a certain place in society, known as their social estate or *soslovie*. They were often recorded in metrical books. Common examples are found below. There are many classifications of the peasant class. See the [Russian Genealogical Word List](#) for those variations or other social estates that may be listed. An occupation may be listed instead of a social estate. Again, see the Russian Genealogical Word List for help. The father's name will follow the social estate or occupation.

English	Russian	Handwritten Example
Peasant	Крестьян(ъ)	
Petty bourgeois	Мъщан(ъ)/ Мъщанин(ъ)	

OTHER HELPFUL VOCABULARY WORDS

English	Russian
State peasant	казенный крестьянин
State peasant	крестьянин государственный
Farmer	земледелец

c. Name of the Deceased's Father or Husband: If the deceased individual was a child, or a woman, their father or husband was often recorded on the document. The husband or father's name was often in genitive case, suggesting he is the father *of* the deceased. The husband or father's name should be converted back to nominative (the base/dictionary form) case before putting it on your family tree.







Genitive Case
Nominative Case

Nominative (base/dictionary form)	Genitive
Ø ends in a consonant	-а/-я
-й	-а/-я
-ь	-а/-я
-о	-а/-я
-е/-ё	-а/-я

The word сын(ъ) may follow the father's patronymic, though not in all cases. See below for a handwritten example.

English	Russian	Handwritten Example
Son	Сын(ъ)	

d. Relationship: If the deceased individual was a child, or a woman, their father or husband was often recorded on the document with the relationship stated. See below for examples of relationship vocabulary (there are two handwritten variations for daughter). See the Russian Genealogical Word List for other vocabulary you might encounter in the document.

English	Russian	Handwritten Example
Son	сын(ъ)	
Daughter	дочь	
Daughter	дочь	
Wife	жена	

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e. Name of the Deceased: The name of the deceased was recorded. If the individual was:

- **An Adult Male:** The given name, patronymic, and surname were recorded.
- **An Adult Female:** The given name and patronymic were recorded. Her surname could be inferred from the surname of her husband or father listed on the record.
- **A Child:** The given name of the child was listed. The surname and patronymic could be inferred from the surname of the father listed on the record.

4. AGE: The age column is split into two sections: 1a – male, and 2a – female. The age of the deceased individual is recorded in the column of their respected gender.

Right Side Column Heading Translations

5. Cause of Death	6. Who performed last rites	7. Who performed the burial and where buried.
<p>О чемъ оумеръ.</p> <p><i>Отъ аетии</i></p>	<p>Кто исповѣдалъ и пріобщалъ.</p> <p><i>Священникъ</i></p>	<p>Кто совершалъ погребеніе, и гдѣ погребенъ.</p> <p><i>на в. священникъ</i></p>

Image from: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS9J-VV9N2-6?i=285&cc=3511744>

5. CAUSE OF DEATH The cause of death was recorded in this column. Refer to the Russian Genealogical Word List for common causes of death. Keep in mind many words in this column are in genitive case.

6. WHO PERFORMED LAST RITES Most often, the priest was the one who performed the last rites. See below for a handwritten example of the word priest.

English	Russian	Handwritten Example
Priest	священник(ъ)	<i>Священникъ</i>

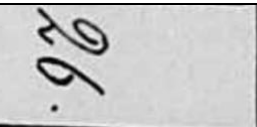



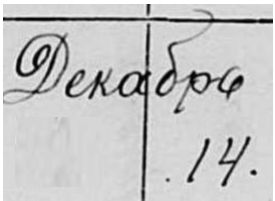
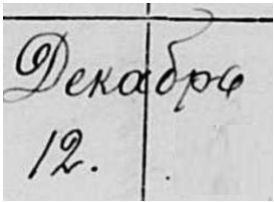
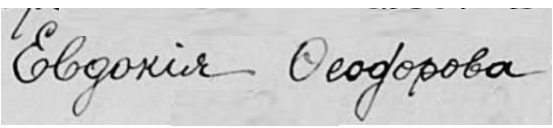
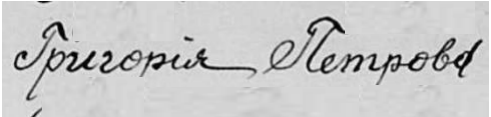
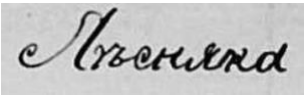
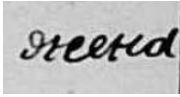
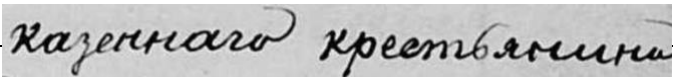
7. WHO PERFORMED THE BURIAL AND WHERE BURIED Again, most often the priest was the one who performed the burial. See above for a handwritten example of the word priest, and below for a handwritten example of the word cemetery.

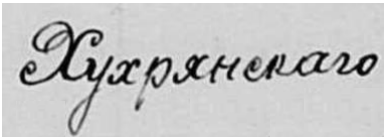

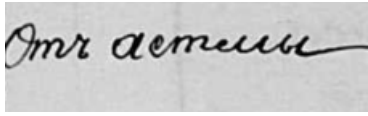
English	Russian	Handwritten Example
	Кладбища (nominative case)	
Cemetery	Кладбищѣ/е (prepositional case)	<i>Кладбища</i>

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PRACTICE

Now that we have learned about the key words, let's practice reading the record above by extracting the important genealogical details.

Is the deceased individual a male or a female? How do you know?	Female, because both the age and entry number are in the female column.	   
What was the date of death?	12 December 1907	
What was the date of burial?	14 December 1907	
What is the name of the deceased person?	Евдокія Феодорова (Evdokiya Feodorova)	
Who was this person related to? What was their relationship?	Григорія Петрова Лѣсняка (genitive case of Григорій Петров Лѣсник), жена Grigory Petrov Lesnyak, she was his wife	  
What was the	State Peasant	

social estate?		
Where were they from?	Хухрянский (adjectival form of Хухра) Khykhra	
How old was the person at the time of death?	60	
What was the cause of death?	отъ астмы Asthma	

ACTIVITY

Now, test your skills you have learned in this “How to” Guide. The Activity is a way to check your knowledge and let you know you’ve mastered the Guide! Click [here](#) to try out the Activity.